

A STUDY OF HEAVEN

PART 1

General Comments

1. This is a study not a sermon.
2. This study uses the book by Randy Alcorn but the Bible is our textbook.
3. Each week we will have different teachers with the assignment of specific subjects about the topic of Heaven.
4. At the end we hope to clarify what the Bible says about Heaven but we will NOT be able to answer every question about Heaven.
5. If you have a particular question or need clarity on a Bible passage about Heaven you can email it to me at tim@eagleslanding.org and I will attempt to answer those in our last session.

Foundational Thoughts

1. **God is the treasure of Heaven. Our preoccupation with Heaven should spring from a desire to be with our great God and King! It is in Heaven that the children of God will see God.**

1 John 3:2 (ESV)

“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”

Matthew 5:8 (ESV)

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

Revelation 22:3-4 (ESV)

“No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.”

2. **This study will be focused on the place, the people and the aspects of Heaven as revealed in the Bible.**
3. **Just to be clear—I, nor anyone who will be teaching this summer, has been to Heaven and returned as an eye witness. The Bible will provide our insight into Heaven.**

Will we become angels in Heaven?

No. The Bible NEVER teaches that when we die, young or old, that we will become angels.

Will Heaven be boring, after all things get boring here?

What if I don't believe in an afterlife?

You are not alone. But our beliefs do not change eternal truth.

“I don't believe in an afterlife, so I don't have to spend my whole life fearing hell, or fearing heaven even more.

For whatever the tortures of hell, I think the boredom of heaven would be even worse.”

Isaac Asimov

Should we even engage in a discussion about Heaven after what the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 2:9?

1 Corinthians 2:9 (ESV)

“But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”

1 Corinthians 2:10 (ESV)

“These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.”

In the Lord's prayer we are to pray...

Matthew 6:10

“your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.”

In the sermon on the mount we are told...

Matthew 6:19–21 (ESV)

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Paul wrote to us these words

Colossians 3:1–2 (ESV)

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

Heaven is a place

John 14:1–3 (ESV)

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”

Heaven is a place, but where and what is Heaven?

1. The Triune God's special, central dwelling place; where he lives with angels and his redeemed people.
2. The place where God's throne is; the location from which he rules the universe and carries out his sovereign plan.

Heaven is a place where certain “things” are true for those who have been saved and are children of God.

Revelation 22:3-5

“No longer will there be anything accursed ... and His servants will worship him. They will see his face....
And they will reign forever and ever.”

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the Curse is found.

Isaac Watts, “Joy to the World,” AD 1719

Do Christians go to Heaven when they die?

Yes, but not the final Heaven. Christians go to the present Heaven now, but that is different from the final NEW Heaven and NEW Earth mentioned in the Bible.

- 1. Believers will be taken into the presence of Christ in heaven.**
- 2. Heaven is a place of resplendent glory, and being with Christ in the glory of heaven will be far superior to our present earthly lives.**
- 3. When in heaven, we will continue looking forward (as we should be already in this life) to the resurrection of our bodies from the dead.**
- 4. At the moment of death believers will be made perfect and cleansed from all sin.**
- 5. Those who did not trust Christ in this life will be separated from God and enter a reality completely devoid of His common grace and blessing.**
- 6. We see from all these things that death is not the end of our existence.**